

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Stoppage of the production of the military vehicle Granit 27

Despite expressions of approval concerning the military truck Phenomen type Granit 27, for the towing of 76 mm guns (in an emergency even 122 mm guns) by all departments, including General Chuikov, production has ceased. This is the result of a final inspection during January 1953 by two technicians of the Red Army (names unknown).

2. The Red Army technicians, decided that the truck be (a) made smaller in outline, i.e. flatter and lower; and (b) fitted with a water-cooled and not an air-cooled engine. These demands caused astonishment, but, despite all attempts to have these decisions altered, no agreement has been reached.

3. Development of Vehicles Planned for 1953

It is planned during 1953 to produce a medium cross-country car, code name P2, from this an amphibian, P2S, and from these a limousine the P2L, giving the advantage of interchangeable spare parts.

4. This P2L is to be a successor to the present BMW type and is to go into production in 1954. It will not be a luxury model, according to Western standards; it will not have automatic gear change and will have a ground clearance of 30 cms (sic) and will be most useful on very bad roads, as experienced in China, Bulgaria, Rumania, and Russia. The car is unsuitable for Western markets, its advantage lies in the fact that it can be converted without difficulty into a front line combat vehicle. This would entail removing the body, shortening the wheelbase and mounting an open body upon it.

5. Technical details and wooden prototypes of the P2, P2S and P2L have been submitted to Ulbricht, Rau, Stoph and Weinberger, as well as the Russians in Karlshorst, and have received full approval.

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